

much towards abbreviation and condensation, whereby a danger of obscurity is always introduced (*brevi esse laboro obscurus fio*). Analysis is always a matter of detail, and such a subject can never be advantageously generalized. The methods that suit best in one case do not in another, and the chemist will always desire to make his own selection from the widest possible range of information.

These views are applied in the following manner: under the head of each substance are placed in succession the principles upon which the different methods of analysis are founded; then under each principle the different methods of applying it.

But an example will serve better than any explanation to give a just idea of this excellent method. Taking *Arsenic*, for example, we first find under that heading the various forms in which that substance is weighed after separation. Then comes "Principle 1, Sparing solubility of the metal in chlorhydric acid," followed by the applications of that principle. Next, "Principle 2, Volatility," followed similarly by the particular applications of that principle and methods of applying it. Again, "Principle 3, Oxidation by chlorine in alkaline solutions," with its appropriate treatment.

The language is clear and perspicuous, and the author has avoided the fault of running into long paragraphs. Nothing enables a student to seize so rapidly and intelligently the information placed before him more than a judicious paragraphing of the text, such as keeps the respective portions of matter well separated, and when we see this result attained, we always take it as a proof that the writer has well digested his subject before commencing to put it on paper.

The portion of the work now published reaches to Carbonate of Silver, comprising 112 pages of double column and small type. We trust that the remainder of the work will not be long delayed.

M. C. L.

ART. XXIX.—*Transactions of State Medical Societies.*

1. *Transactions of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Session of 1870, held in Montgomery, March 15, 16, 17.* 8vo. pp. 445.
2. *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of West Virginia (Instituted April, 1867), held June 1, 2, 1870.* 8vo. pp. 78.
3. *Transactions of the New Hampshire Medical Society (Eightieth Anniversary), held at Concord, June 21–22, 1870.* 8vo. pp. 96.
4. *Proceedings of the Convention for the Reorganization of the Medical Society of the State of California, and of the Annual Meeting of the Society, held in San Francisco, October 19–20, 1870. Together with the Constitution and Code of Ethics.* 8vo. pp. 40.
5. *Transactions of the Twentieth Anniversary Meeting of the Illinois State Medical Society, held at Dixon, May 17–18, 1870.* 8vo. pp. 141.

1. THE transactions of the *Alabama State Medical Society* are highly creditable to the profession. The reports from the several counties of the State are replete with matter both interesting and instructive. A few present meteorological observations accurately kept, apparently, by a close reference to the thermometer, barometer, hygrometer, the rain gauge, and the course of the winds, &c. Others, again, present brief descriptions of particular forms of disease as it appeared in certain localities, often practically illustrated by the history of cases, the whole presenting a mass of valuable information.

The volume of transactions, which is beautifully gotten up, opens with three addresses, namely, "The Annual Address," by the President, R. F. MICHEL, M. D.; "Annual Oration," by G. A. KETCHUM, M. D.; and a "Valedictory Address," by J. M. WILLIAMS, M. D., which latter, though somewhat too pretentious in style, is unexceptional in sentiment. The themes they all discuss are the character, the worth, the education, the work, and the responsibility of physicians, and the necessity of their organization for the promotion of their

own good, the diffusion of professional knowledge, for the defence of their own rights, and to best secure the good of the community.

The report from Dallas County presents some judicious remarks on the history, uses, and abuses of the "Obstetrical Forceps," by W. P. REESE. The instrument, we opine, is as often abused by its neglect at the proper period, in appropriate cases, as it is by its unskilful use, or by its too frequent employment inopportunately, and when not demanded for the safety of mother or child.

A very instructive paper follows, by A. G. MABRY, M. D., on the "Medicinal Properties of Sulphate of Quinia;" and one, by the same gentleman, on "Hemorrhagic Intermittent Fever;" a disease which has recently occurred to some extent in certain malarial regions of the South, and of which the pathology and treatment have elicited no little discussion. By a resolution, the State Medical Association of Alabama has declared that, as the disease referred to does not always assume the intermittent form, in its judgment the most proper name for it will be "Hemorrhagic Malarial Fever."

The report from Lowndes County contains remarks by D. S. HOPPING, M. D., on the "Pathology of Malarial Hæmaturia," of an interesting character. It is the same disease as that described above as hemorrhagic intermittent fever.

In a supplement to the report from Mobile County, Dr. JEROME COCHRAN gives the history of two cases of "Ovariectomy." In both cases there was separate ligation of the vessels of the pedicle. One case terminated successfully, the other fatally.

The same report contains the history of a case of "Pelvic Peritonitis, with Hæmatocele and Abscess of the Left Broad Ligament." An instructive case, the account of which does not readily admit of a satisfactory epitome.

The next case embraced in the report is one of "Vaginismus," of a very aggravated character, in a mulatto girl, aged 19 years—epileptic. The suffering of the patient was so intense upon the least attempt to penetrate within the vulva, that it was decided to perform the operation suggested by Sims in such cases. Accordingly, the patient being under the effects of chloroform, the remains of the hymen were removed; the sphincter vaginae muscle was cut through on each side, about half an inch from the commissure, the incision being extended to the raphe, making each incision two inches in length. During the first six or eight days, the introduction of the dilator caused a great deal of pain, so much, indeed, that on two occasions it was found necessary to administer chloroform before it could be accomplished. No further trouble was experienced in the after-treatment, so far as the vagina was concerned. The dilator was, for a time, worn two or three hours every day; in the intervals, the vagina was plugged with cotton wet with glycerine. The wound healed up completely, and every vestige of vaginal tenderness disappeared in less than a month. The cure was complete and permanent. "Not only was the vaginismus relieved, but the patient has had no more pelvic neuralgia, not another attack of epilepsy, nor any more hysterical trouble."

Appended to the report from Montgomery County is a paper from R. F. MICHEL, M. D., containing his objections to the term "*Purpuremia*," as applied to the disease known as "Hemorrhagic Malarial Fever." We admit the soundness of the doctor's objections; at the same time, we hardly think it well to dispute about the name of a disease, in relation to the true pathology of which there would seem to be, as yet, no unanimity of opinion among those who have had an opportunity of studying it.

2. The session of the *Medical Society of the State of West Virginia* for 1870 was opened by an address, in the absence of the President, by the First Vice-President, Dr. E. A. HILDEETH. It is a short, unpretentious production, confined mainly to an exposition of the leading objects of the Society.

The first of the professional papers is a "Report on the Topography, Climatology, and Epidemic Diseases of Wood County," by Dr. E. D. SAFFORD, which contains a very graphic description of what Dr. S. terms a "malignant bilious remittent fever, approaching as nearly yellow fever as the locality allowed;" the same disease, evidently, as has received, further south, the name of hemor-

rhagic malarial fever. The prevalent endemics of Wood County are stated to be "remittent and intermittent fevers, dysentery, pleurisy, and pneumonia."

A communication follows, from Dr. J. C. HUPP, on the "Hydrate of Chloral in Puerperal Insanity." So far as the experience of Dr. H. goes, he has found the remedy, when administered in this disease, to act kindly, promptly, and satisfactorily. Cases, remarks Dr. H., might be multiplied, showing results most satisfactory, from the use of this new and comparatively untried agent. In facial neuralgia, sick headache, delirium tremens, and in wakefulness or restlessness in surgical and other cases, he has used chloral with uniform satisfaction. He gives it, usually, first in *sedative* doses, say from 2 to 5 grains every 20 to 60 minutes, then increases the dose to 10 or 15 grains at the same intervals, if its hypnotic effect was desirable.

The next report, on the "Meteorology and Epidemic Diseases of Ohio County," by Dr. E. A. HILDRETH, presents a history, marked by good sense and much practical acumen, of the prevalent diseases of the county. Dr. H. notices the continued increase in the prevalence of phthisis pulmonalis in his vicinity, and other parts of our country. To the correctness of his remarks, that the disease "appears to attend the advance of civilization, and increase its ravages in proportion to increase in enlightenment—being almost unknown to savage life," we cannot assent; the increase of pulmonary consumption has no necessary connection with the advance in civilization and enlightenment among our people. We admit that in furthering that increase, increased wealth, prompting our people to exchange the simple, active out-door life of former times for the comparatively inert in-door life of luxury and ease of the present day, plays an important and prominent part. The supposed exemption of "savage life" from consumption will not, we think, be verified by a careful examination of facts.

The longest report, occupying over twenty pages in comparatively small type, is that by Dr. J. FRISSELL, on "Stone in the Bladder and Urinary Passages." Dr. F. makes no pretension of having presented "anything new in principle or practice in reference to this important subject." He merely gives, "in as short a space as possible, what he could remember or collect together of cases that had come under his own observation, or within his own knowledge, or that of his medical acquaintance, during a residence of more than thirty years in Wheeling." The report is replete with valuable matter, but will not admit of a satisfactory analysis.

In an interesting communication, Dr. WEISEL describes a "New Stethoscope," for which he claims the following advantages: It is portable; does not obstruct the ear; excludes all mechanical sounds; and combines the mediate and immediate methods of auscultation. The instrument consists of "a simple ovoid cylinder of wood, one and a half inch in depth, which fits over the external ear, one end covered up by a cushion to fit the irregularities of the head, and an elastic band which passes around the forehead to hold it in its place."

3. The session of the *New Hampshire Medical Society* was opened by an address from the President, Dr. W. W. BROWN. After a few remarks upon "The Progress and Present State of Medical Science," the closing part of the address is devoted to a consideration of its present condition and future tendency, embracing the all-important question: "How will our present mode of practice compare, as to utility, with that pursued by our predecessors half a century ago; and are our patients safer in our hands than were our ancestors, when sick, in theirs?"

The first of the professional reports, on "Surgery," by Dr. M. W. RUSSELL, is able and instructive.

The next communication, "The Medical History of New Hampshire," by Dr. A. B. CROSBY, although, at first sight, it might be esteemed as dealing in subjects of simply local interest, yet we are persuaded that, in the sketch it presents of the early medical history of one of our "olden commonwealths," and of the history of Dartmouth Medical College, with a brief notice of a few of the most distinguished of the physicians of the State, who have passed from among us, all the profession throughout the Union will feel a deep interest in it.

A most able, opportune, and truthful paper, on "Nutrition in Disease," is

communicated by Dr. G. P. CONN. "We may lay it down," he says, "as a practical fact, that any affection which does not compromise directly the functions of the heart and lungs, cannot produce death so long as the nutrition of the body is maintained to a point compatible with life; and unless the disease involve an insuperable obstacle to the ingestion of food, or its assimilation, we can, if particularly attended to from its inception, so sustain a healthy standard of nutrition that the structure of these vital organs will not become seriously impaired. Again, if inanition is not the necessary effect of the existing disease, but is due to insufficient alimentation, starvation will cause death, though the progress of the disease *per se* be favourable, and we can easily see that at first it was merely an incidental element."

The volume closes with an "Obituary Notice of Dr. John Clough."

4. The proceedings of the Convention of Physicians of California, which assembled in San Francisco, October 19, 1870, in pursuance of a call issued by the State Board of Health, to effect a reorganization of the State Society, and the transactions, also, of the first annual session of the society, held on the same day, are interesting so far as it furnishes us with the evidence that the physicians of California became incorporated (Nov. 1, 1870) into a State Society, that they may, by their joint labours, as expressed by Dr. T. M. Logan, Secretary and Executive Officer of the State Board of Health, in his address of welcome to the gentlemen composing the reorganizing Convention, "bring the members of the profession throughout the State into harmonious unity of action; to cause mind to bear on mind; to work out the problem of climatic influences on the physical condition of man; to investigate the nature and causes of endemics and epidemics; to determine the best method of holding life and health in integrity, and to remedy the evils incident to human existence."

No communication on any professional subject was presented at the first annual session of the reorganized State Society. A very spirited series of resolutions were passed, calling upon government to confer upon the surgeons in our navy such military rank as will save them, in the future, from similar insult and injustice to that recently inflicted upon one of their corps; a repetition of which in the future will most certainly have the effect of depriving our national ships of the services of high-minded, well-instructed, and efficient medical officers, while it entails no little disgrace upon our country.

We congratulate our professional brethren of California upon their successful reorganization, and trust they may be as successful in carrying out the important objects at which it aims.

5. The communications in the volume of *Transactions of the Illinois State Medical Society*, at the session of the past year, confer no little credit upon the members by whom they were respectively prepared. The first report is on "Practical Medicine," by Dr. J. S. WHITMIRE. After a brief sketch of the medical topography and meteorology of the leading counties of the State, the prevalent diseases of the preceding twelve months, 1869-70, are noticed, among which stands predominant *epidemic scarlatina*. The treatment pursued in this disease was of a sustaining character—iron, quinia, chlorate of potassa, etc.; attention to bowels; daily sponging with a warm alkaline solution; a gargle or wash for the throat, composed of alcohol, ℥ss; elix. vitriol, ℥ij; alum, ℥j; creasote, forty drops; ol. cinnamon, eighty drops; and simple syrup, ℥ijss; clean, airy apartments, and plenty of beef-tea or milk as food. Under this treatment the patients generally got well. In calming the restlessness attendant upon cerebro-spinal meningitis, and also in chorea, Dr. W. speaks favourably of the action of *hydrate of chloral*.

The second communication is on the "Non-necessity of Bloodletting in the Treatment of Pneumonia," by Dr. D. W. YOUNG.

The report on "Surgery," by Dr. MOSES GUNN, presents, among other subjects, some pertinent remarks on "Excision of Hip-Joint," which, in many cases, will afford prompt and permanent relief from painful and exhausting symptoms, and, in conjunction with appropriate constitutional medication, diet, and regimen, will often restore a patient to even robust health. The question of "Nephrotomy and Renal Lithotomy" is briefly considered. The true char-

acter of "Colles's injury of the ulna, near the wrist-joint"—fracture with luxation—is inquired into, and its proper treatment very fully considered.

The next report, on "Drugs and Medicines," by Dr. C. HUNT, commences with some desultory remarks on "Sophistication and Sale of Drugs and Medicines;" then notices the "Hydrate of Chloral," and its superiority over other hypnotics. The therapeutic value of "Bromide of Potassium" is next considered, and the range of cases to which it is adapted. Reference is also had to the use of "Carbolic Acid," both externally and internally, in cancerous affections. In conclusion, the use of "Belladonna and Stramonium," for the removal of obstinate constipation of bowels, is pointed out.

In a communication on the "Treatment of Conjunctivitis Neonatorum," Dr. E. L. HOLMES states that he depends mainly upon the application, once or twice a day, over as much of the conjunctiva as possible, of a strong solution of argent. nitrat. gr. x-xx to an ounce of water, which is pretty bold practice.

A report is made by Dr. S. J. JONES, on "Otology." It is a sensible one, though presenting little novelty. Subjoined is a "Statistical Exposition of the Diseases of the Ear," by Dr. E. L. HOLMES. Dr. BOGART reports on the "Use of Plaster of Paris in Fractures."

We have next an instructive case of "Amputation at the Hip-Joint," by Dr. E. POWELL. The operation was performed on a young man, aged twenty-one, for chronic inflammation of the hip and knee joints. There was complete recovery from the operation. After the lapse of ten months, however, the patient died from phthisis pulmonalis.

A report was made from the Committee on "Communication from the American Medical Association, in relation to Licences." Among the other resolutions offered by the committee for adoption by the State Medical Society of Illinois is one approving of the plan of certificates of qualification being required of all persons who propose to enter upon the study of medicine. Report and resolutions accepted.

D. F. C.

ART. XXX.—*On the Wasting Diseases of Infants and Children.* By EUSTACE SMITH, M. D., Physician to His Majesty the King of the Belgians; Physician to the Northwest London Free Dispensary for Sick Children, etc. etc. etc. Second American from the second revised and enlarged English edition. 8vo. pp. 226. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1871.

A REVIEW, or even an extended notice, of this work is unnecessary, inasmuch as the first edition of it was reprinted in the *Medical News and Library*, and is consequently in the possession of the readers of this Journal. The first edition appears to have been exhausted in two years, and Dr. Smith, in preparing the second edition for the press, has not merely revised the text very carefully, corrected inaccuracies, made additions wherever an increased experience seemed to indicate that they were necessary, but has added two new chapters. In one he describes a disease which, he says, is very common among children, and is occasionally mistaken for tuberculosis. In this disease, which he calls "Mucous Disease," there is a tendency to an increased secretion of mucus from the whole internal surface of the alimentary canal, a mucous flux which interferes mechanically with digestion and absorption of food. The most characteristic symptoms of the disease are: a slimy appearance of the tongue; large quantities of free mucus in the stools; an absence of regularity in the progression of the symptoms; and a periodical occurrence of serious attacks. In addition to these symptoms, a change in the disposition of the child will be noticed. He will be observed to have become dull, to be restless at night, to start from his sleep with a loud cry, and even occasionally to rise from his bed while asleep and to walk from room to room. His appetite may continue keen, in fact it may be excessive or even capricious, the large quantities of mucus in the intestines probably preventing digestion. In speaking of the appearance